

SENATE—Thursday, March 9, 2000

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Dr. Terry Harter, First United Methodist Church, Champaign, IL.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain, Dr. Terry Harter, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, What is a nation without You? Indeed, who are we without You at the center of our lives? What value is all that we know, vast accumulation though it be, but a chipped fragment if we do not know You, Author of wisdom? What is the sum of all our stirring and working, even in this mighty Chamber, but a half-finished work if we do not know You, Creator of galaxies, and Star-spark of life within us?

We know, Lord of all nations, that You have always taken more than a passing interest in the ways and works of all those women and men to whom You have granted stewardship of government and leadership in the nations of the world.

So it is, that at the beginning of this day, we pray for all who serve here; from the President pro tempore and Senators, to the pages and staff, from the reporters and Capitol police to the people who raise the flags over us.

We call upon You, Gracious God, that these persons whom You love may on this day be encountered by the glad surprise of Your Grace, and come to know You in the midst of their work on behalf of the Nation.

Today, in the press of the calendar and stress of the schedule; grant them moments of Your peace.

Today, under the burden of issues which rearrange human destiny: grant them a clear vision of Your zeal for truth and justice.

Today, amidst the seductiveness of their power; grant them courage to live and work on the side of Your power.

Today, as they labor here, guard their families, heal their wounds, restore their relationships to health.

And as the day wanes, revive their sagging spirits and forgive their shortcomings. Turn them away from the temptation of bitterness and blame, so that in the darkest hour of the night they might trust Your ever-present redeeming grace and come to know that You love them. O Lord of all nations, hear our prayer. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, the Senate this morning will begin postcloture debate on the nominations of Marsha Berzon and Richard Paez. By previous order, back-to-back votes on the confirmation of the nominations will occur at 2 p.m.

Following the votes, the Senate will resume morning business for the introduction of bills and statements. The Senate may also turn to any legislative or executive items cleared for action.

I thank my colleagues for their attention.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. I thank the Chair.

LEGISLATIVE COOPERATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we look forward to today's activities. We hope we can move forward with an up-or-down vote on these two nominations. We also are looking forward to the legislative skills of the chairman of the Banking Committee, Senator GRAMM, to get us to the point where we can again work on the Export Administration Act, which was considered yesterday for a brief period of time. This legislation is extremely important to the country. It is important not only to the high-tech industry but our economy generally. There is not a piece of legislation that is more important to move along than this one as it will allow us to compete with foreign nations in the exportation of computers and other high-tech equipment. This is something that needs to be done, and we hope that in the week we get back from our break, we can move into a very productive session, taking care of the Export Administration Act, doing something about prescription drugs, and other waiting legislative matters, also recognizing that the minority is willing to work in conjunction with the majority in any way to move all legislation. I

think we showed our good faith last week when we were able to move such a large amount of legislation including amendments on the education tax initiative that was put forth by the majority.

So we look forward to completing today's work and, after next week, doing the many things that burden us legislatively.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF MARSHA L. BERZON, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

NOMINATION OF RICHARD A. PAEZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now return to executive session and resume postcloture debate on the two Ninth Circuit judicial nominations which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Marsha L. Berzon, of California, and Richard A. Paez, of California, to be United States Circuit Judges for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senator from New Hampshire, Mr. SMITH, shall be in control of up to 3 hours of total debate on both nominations and the Democratic leader or his designee shall be in control of up to 1.5 hours of total debate on both nominations.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, as we have gone through this debate, although my name was not attached to anything in terms of a filibuster, it is no secret that I have been the person who has filibustered these